

Message

From: Guzman, Martha [Guzman.Martha@epa.gov]
Sent: 6/15/2022 3:52:46 PM
To: Montgomery, Michael [Montgomery.Michael@epa.gov]
CC: Jordan, Deborah [Jordan.Deborah@epa.gov]; Ebbert, Laura (she/her) [Ebbert.Laura@epa.gov]; R9_Scheduling [R9_Scheduling@epa.gov]; Lyons, John [Lyons.John@epa.gov]; Alpern, Michael [Alpern.Michael@epa.gov]; Scott, Jeff [Scott.Jeff@epa.gov]; Barton, Dana [Barton.Dana@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Superfund Update

Thanks Mike- a couple of minutes on our prep with grant and a quick debrief on hunter's point

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 15, 2022, at 8:46 AM, Montgomery, Michael <Montgomery.Michael@epa.gov> wrote:

Morning Martha,

Here is what I have for our update today:

- 1) Exide – We have a firm date from DTSC to announce the request to list – July 1. We need to decide our role as DTSC/Cal EPA is inviting us to the participate in the event.

Below is some Background information

Non-Responsive as Agreed by Requestor

Exide Background

- Beginning in 1922, Exide and its predecessors operated a secondary lead smelter, recycling lead-acid batteries in Vernon, CA.
- The former Exide facility occupies approximately 15-acres and the areas immediately adjacent to the facility commercial and/or industrial with residential housing to the north and south.
- Around 2012, California's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) discovered that air pollution from the facility had deposited lead across an area spanning 10,000 properties.
- In 2014, Exide ceased operation and began closure and cleanup work under DTSC oversight.
- In 2020, Exide filed for bankruptcy, reaching a bankruptcy settlement that established the Vernon Environmental Response Trust (VERT) and designated U.S. EPA as the "lead agency" with fiduciary responsibilities over expending the trust funds on facility closure and cleanup.
- Approximately \$28.5 million was made available via bankruptcy proceedings for a Trust to conduct closure of the facility, which was far less than what was needed to achieve full site cleanup.
- Since October 2020, the Trust has safely removed the remaining two segment buildings that constituted the smelter complex and two hazardous waste storage structures.
- In July 2021, California dedicated \$132M in its State budget for DTSC to address remaining contamination at the facility and additional funds to clean up residential properties.
- On April 22, 2022, We (LCRD) sent a letter to DTSC outlining our future role at the site should it remain a RCRA site.
- On May 1, 2022, DTSC took over remaining cleanup activities at the former Exide facility.
- The state expects that it will take from 8-12 years to complete cleanup.

Michael Montgomery

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